

Notice of Availability and Public Comment Period for the Environmental Assessment for the Conversion of a Portion of Genesee Valley Park Under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act as a Result of the Brooks Landing Revitalization Project

This is to announce the availability and public comment period beginning Friday, June 10, 2005, for the Environmental Assessment (EA) on the City of Rochester's proposal to develop a hotel and restaurant including a public waterfront and promenade at the intersection of Brooks and South Plymouth Avenues along the west bank of the Genesee River. This proposal is part of the City's efforts to revitalize Sector 4, including the Brooks Landing area. The public comment period will close on Saturday, July 9, 2005. **Only written comments will be accepted and must be RECEIVED via overnight or regular mail by July 9, 2005.**

Because of the location needs of the project and constraints at the site, it is necessary for the project to utilize 1.38 acres of dedicated parkland in Genesee Valley Park. In 1978 the City of Rochester received a federal grant through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to improve a portion of Genesee Valley Park. The LWCF program is administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the National Park Service. By accepting the grant, the City agreed to protect Genesee Valley Park for public outdoor recreation use as required by Section 6(f) of the LWCF Act. and 36 CFR Part 59. However, Section 6(f)(3) does allow the conversion of parkland, as long as the community provides substitute parkland that is of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness. A National Park Service decision is required on all proposals to convert parkland protected under Section 6(f).

The City of Rochester is proposing to replace the 1.38 acres of converted parkland with 19.5 acres of vacant city-owned land located adjacent to and north of Turning Point Park along the Genesee River. The purpose of the EA is to provide a decision-making framework for the NPS to evaluate the environmental impacts of the partial conversion of Genesee Valley Park and to determine whether the replacement parkland is an adequate substitution for the appraised value and recreational usefulness of the parkland being converted for the hotel, restaurant and associated activities. The EA has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, P.L. 91-190 (NEPA).

An online version of the Environmental Assessment is available at the City's website for viewing or downloading at: www.cityofrochester.gov Click on the "What's New" link under "Other" on the lower right side of the homepage. Volumes I & II of the Environmental Assessment are posted in PDF format.

Reference copies are available for review during general hours of operation at:

Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County
115 South Avenue
Rochester, New York 14604-1896

City of Rochester
Economic Development Department
City Hall, Room 005A
30 Church Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Neighborhood Empowerment Team (NET) Office Area C
923 Genesee Street
Rochester, New York 14619
Phone: 428-7630

Copies on CD-ROM are available upon request by contacting the City of Rochester's Economic Development Department at (585) 428-6808.

You are encouraged to review and comment on the EA as soon as possible. Include your name and return address in the body of your written comments. Your comments along with your name and address will be made available for public review. However, individual respondents may request that your name and address be withheld from the public record. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish your name and/or address to be withheld, you must state that request prominently at the beginning of your comment letter. Anonymous comments will not be considered.

All written public comments sent overnight or regular mail will be accepted if received by July 9, 2005. Send all overnight and regular mail correspondence to:

Fashun Ku, Commissioner
Economic Development Department
City Hall, Room 005A
30 Church Street
Rochester, NY 14614-1290